The exploration and exploitation of non-fuel and non-atomic minerals has been thrown open for private investment and some multinational companies have been granted reconnaissance permits for diamond exploration in Orissa.

Reserve of haemetite iron-ore

1404. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserve of usable and exploitable haemetite iron-ore in the country;

(b) the consumption of haemetite iron-ore during the last five years by domestic steel industry;

(c) the export of haemetite iron-ore during the last five years;

(d) the estimated domestic production of steel by 2020 and requirement of haemetite iron-ore for achieving the same;

(e) whether Government are contemplating ban on export of haemetite iron-ore; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per available information, the total reserves of haemetite iron-ore is 5.54 billion tonnes and the total resources are estimated at 12.9 billion tonnes. The domestic consumption of haemetite iron-ore during last five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are given below:

(Unit '000 tonnes)

Year	Consumption
2000-01	37,109
2001-02	39,449
2002-03	39,825
2003-04	51,211
2004-05(P)	53,770

(c) The export of iron-ore, including haemetite during last five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are given below:

(Unit '000 tonnes)

Year	Export
2000-01	20,162
2001-02	23,086
2002-03	57,094
2003-04	51,498
2004-05(P)	83,165

(d) As per available information, the estimated demand of iron ore including haemetite ore, by the year 2019-2020 to support a steel production of 110 million tonnes, is 190 million tonnes.

(e) and (f) As per available information, there is no proposal to ban export of haemetite iron ore.

Review of mines and mineral exploration

1405. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing policy on mines and mineral exploration;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are favouring captive mining for export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). A High Level Committee was set up in Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)(MMDR) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in mining sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of 'c' above, does not arise.